Test Item Writing Information

This is by no means inclusive, but it will give you an idea when you are writing your own science exams or thinking of using a test that someone else has made.

1. Does the question explicitly address a standard?
2. Multiple choice
   1. Good distractors
   2. More than 3, less than 5
   3. Data analysis questions on the same page as the chart
3. Matching vocab
   1. Test how you teach
      1. (give hints… “front door” for cell membrane)
4. Essay
   1. Be specific in your rubric or your demands.
   2. Length
   3. Include them!
5. Data analysis
   1. Don’t get caught in the trenches of the graph itself
      1. Counting intervals
      2. Hard to read

As always, using a variety of types of questions is crucial. Make sure your questions address all levels of complexity.